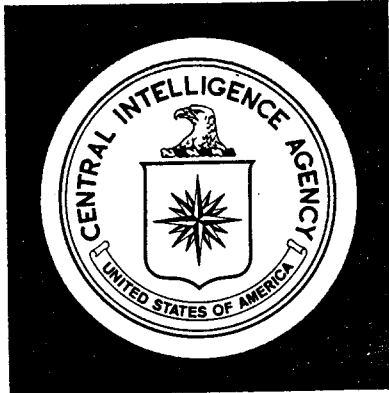


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CHILE: NO RELAXATION

1.5C Actions of the past week leave little prospect that the government will soon relax its tough stance on security or its ban on politics.

When a dozen former Allende officials were released on September 12, it was announced that some charges remained pending against them. Now the navy has begun proceedings against at least six of these persons, including Luis Corvalan, secretary general of the Communist Party, on charges of "subversion."

The Ministry of Interior also announced that the Christian Democratic Party—Chile's largest—will not be permitted a voice in running the government. The statement came after public airing of correspondence between two party leaders, which in effect reaffirmed the party's desire to reach an understanding with the military government so that the country eventually could return to traditional democratic processes. The government's reaction was a categorical rejection of any possible constructive dialogue with the party on this basis. The government's statement raised the threat of punishment for activity contrary to terms of the political recess.

One effect of the statement will be to complicate President Pinochet's proposal on September 11 to form a "council of state," composed of former presidents and prominent Chileans, to advise the government. Former president Frei, the most prominent Christian Democrat, will find it even more difficult to participate now that his party has been so strongly rebuffed.

Internally, these issues will have little lasting effect. On the international scene, however, they come at a bad time for Chile. Efforts to improve its standing will be severely damaged. Belgium, West Germany, and the UK hope to sponsor a resolution in the UN condemning Chile's human rights stance. Denmark, France, Luxembourg, and several other countries apparently approve the Belgian draft.

In the meantime, Pinochet [REDACTED] has conducted an investigation of the human rights

practices within the armed forces. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Pinochet has verified some abuse against prisoners and lack of notification of the relatives of those detained. Pinochet is said to have ordered that a secret decree be issued to delineate procedures for detentions throughout the country. In July, the President warned the high command of the armed forces that severe disciplinary action would result if authority in these areas was "exceeded."

In yet another effort to improve its image abroad, Chile has begun a campaign to have the 1976 OAS General Assembly held in Santiago. The regime believes that if Chile succeeds in these efforts, representatives of the American nations can see for themselves that Chile's enemies have exaggerated the human rights issue. [REDACTED]

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